



USACE CADD NEWSLETTER



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CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions to jean.a.mcgin@usace.army.mil.

Executive Steering Group Membership

Corps of Engineers' representation on the Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center) Executive Steering Group (ESG) has changed with the recent changes in Division Chiefs in Military Programs and Civil Works Directorates. The new members of the ESG are Mr. Dwight Beranek, the new Chief of Engineering and Construction Division, Military Programs and Mr. Carl Enson, Chief of Engineering Division, Civil Works. Mr. Beranek will be the Chair of the ESG for FY99.

Tri-Service Center FY99 Program

Members of the Corps Field Advisory CADD (FAC) Groups submitted eleven (11) new projects to the Center for inclusion in the Center FY99 program. Eight (8) of the projects submitted are included for funding in FY99. One of the projects, A Standards File Checker, is being completed with other funds. All of these projects should be of benefit to most districts.

Project titles of Corps submitted projects included in the program are: Automation of Drafting for Single Story Steel Structures and Metal Buildings, Inroads Preference Sets Conforming to the Tri-Service CADD Standards, As Builts, MicroStation File Manager, A Developer's Guide for Producing and Publishing Engineering Documents, Development of a Civil/Site Engineering Solutions Manual, Virtual File Formats, and Standards and Criteria Revision Documentation. Congratulations and thanks to all those who submitted projects: Ghassem Khosrownia, Seattle, David Himmerich, St. Paul, John Kincaid, Rock Island, Stan Shirk, Omaha, Mike Watson, Memphis, and James Roberds, Savannah. After the new fiscal year begins, check out the Center web site under Projects and see what these projects are about. This information should be posted by 15 October 1998. Next year we expect additional submissions that will benefit the Corps.

September Senior Advisory CADD (SAC) Group Meeting
Visit to Intergraph

The Corps SAC Group met with FAC Group Chairs in Huntsville 9 September. Primary discussions focused on the progress made in FY98 on establishing active FAC Groups and in getting Corps related projects developed and included in the Center program. Additional topics discussed were the need for an implementation plan to be developed for the CADD Standards, and the problems being encountered by districts in translating CADD files from MicroStation to AutoCAD. The majority of Corps districts use MicroStation for CADD, and many Army and Air Force installations use AutoCAD and need the as built files to be in the AutoCAD format. The Systems FAC Group will take the lead on developing an implementation plan for the Standards. A plan was developed to completely define all problems encountered in translations at Corps districts, and then address possible solutions -- Stan Shirk, Architectural FAC Chair, has the lead on gathering the information to define the problems, and the Systems FAC will investigate and suggest solutions.

On 10 September SAC Group and FAC chairs visited Intergraph Headquarters and were briefed on the latest hardware and CADD/GIS software being developed by Intergraph. Intergraph is still in the business of producing useful software for the engineering community, and they are interested in helping the Corps solve their architectural/engineering problems. This author was impressed with what they have to offer. Let me know what (if any) new Intergraph products you are using and how they are working for you. Please send me an e-mail with this information at jean.a.mcgin@usace.army.mil.

Guidance on the Use of CADD Standards

EC 25-1-243 was issued 30 June 1996, and expired 30 June 1998. This EC rescinded Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-1-1807, Manual for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CADD Systems. It further stipulated that, "Guidance for CADD System usage shall be the current version of the Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center's Architectural, Engineering and Construction

(A/E/C) CADD Standards.”

A memorandum reiterating the guidance in EC 25-1-243 was signed by General Hunter on 9 July and distributed to all districts and divisions. The memorandum stipulates that, “...all CADD produced projects which are 35% or less complete shall henceforth comply with the standards.”

The final of Version 1.7 of the Tri-Service A/E/C Standards was posted on the Center Home Page 31 July. The Standards can be downloaded from the Internet at <http://tsc.wes.army.mil>. Release 1.7 of the standards was taken to the Center editing department on 9/18/98. This release has been edited for grammar and will be formatted to meet final WES publication criteria. The final version of this document (Release 1.71) will be included on the CD as well as distributed over the Internet. (!!Note: the content of Release 1.7 will not be changed, only grammatical errors and any glaring errors. The Center will maintain a web site listing any changes between the two releases.!!)

A Workspace is being developed for both AutoCAD and MicroStation, which will make conforming to the Standards easier. The MicroStation Workspace is currently scheduled to be complete in December 98, and CD's with both the Standards and the MicroStation Workspace will be available for distribution in January 1999. The beta test version of the MicroStation Workspace is scheduled to be delivered on October 5. There will be a 20 day government review period for this deliverable (15 days for review, 5 days for compiling comments). If you would like to receive a copy of this deliverable, please e-mail Toby Wilson at wilsonj@ex1.wes.army.mil. You may also e-mail Toby if you have any questions about these products or delivery dates.

ISO A1 and A0 border sheets were made available via the Internet (in .dgn and .dwg formats) on 8/17/98.

The Systems FAC is developing a Corps-wide implementation plan for the A/E/C Standards. This plan will include training on the use and maintenance of the Workspaces.

Electronic Document Management Systems Team and CEERIS Update

The second meeting of the Corps of Engineers Electronic Document Management System (CEEDMS) Team will be held in the Pulaski Building the week of 26 October. The Team was formed to develop technical requirements for an electronic document management system (EDMS) for the USACE engineering functional area. Team members are from Engineering and Information Management offices from Baltimore, Jacksonville, Huntington, Rock Island and Portland Districts, and Huntsville Center. Participating HQUSACE representatives are from CEIM-IR, CEMP-EE, CECW-EP, CECW-AR, and CERE-PS. Currently Huntington and Baltimore districts are performing surveys within their districts to identify technical requirements for all functional areas within a district and determining interrelationships among functional areas. After the October meeting, the functional requirements document will be completed and distributed to all districts within the Corps for review and comment. An EDMS acquisition strategy for the Corps will then be developed.

A Memorandum on the Corps of Engineers Electronic Recordkeeping Information System (CEERIS) implementation was signed by the Chief of Engineers on 15 September 1998 and distributed to all MSCs, Centers and Districts. As currently configured, CEERIS is for document

archiving only and does not include, workflow management and other functionality found in Document Management systems. Additionally, CEERIS will not include the Engineering Functional Area (except for Headquarters) until February 2000. Information on CEERIS can be found on the Web at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/im/ceeris/ceerislist.htm>.

Library of CAD Designs

On 4 June 1998 General Hunter signed a memorandum, Subject: Submittal of Projects to the USACE Computer Aided Design (CAD) Library. This memorandum was sent to all districts and divisions and a copy was e-mailed to all chiefs of Engineering Divisions. The memorandum stated, "Your support in providing the required designs for inclusion in the library is essential for the accomplishment of our goal to provide all districts access to completed designs so as to reduce design costs to our customers." Any CAD produced designs which are adaptations of DOD Standard Designs should be sent to the appropriate Center of Standardization. Any other designs which might benefit other districts should be sent to the Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center). Any projects submitted must have been through the BCOE process. Contact Elias Arredondo at the Center for details on format and how to submit. He can be reached at (601) 634-3140, FAX No. (601) 634-4584, or e-mail: arredoe@ex1.wes.army.mil. We need submittals from the field to populate this library so that it can benefit all districts. The library can be viewed on the Internet at <http://cadlib.wes.army.mil>.

Newsletter Format

The format of the Newsletter has changed from three columns to a single page format as a result of a comment from a Systems FAC Group member pointing out that it is difficult to read the three column format on the computer screen.

Call for Articles

All articles in this issue of the Newsletter were written by Jean McGinn, CEMP-EE. I would encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to my e-mail address) for the next issue, which should be issued in December.